Haftarah of Yom Kippur *Minchah* (The Book of Jonah)

chantable English version by Len Fellman (modeled on the recording in 'Navigating the Bible II"):

http://bible.ort.org/books/haftarotd4.asp?action=displaypage&book=6&chapter=1&verse=1&portion=66

based on the translations of Robert Alter, Aryeh Kaplan, Stone Edition Tanach, I.W. Slotki, W. Gunther Plaut, Jerusalem Bible, New King James Bible

1:1 [And there came] [the word of YHWH] to Jonah son of Amittai, saying,

2 "[Arise—get up on your feet]—[and make your way] [to Nineveh], that great city, [and call out] against it,
for arisen is their evil before Me.

3 [And so rose up] Jonah to flee unto Tarshish, [from the presence] of YHWH,
and he went down to Jaffa, and he found [there a merchant ship] |—a ship [that was bound for Tarshish],
and he paid its fare, [and he went] down to go [with them] to Tarshish, [to get away] from YHWH.

4 [However, YHWH] hurled [a great wind] [upon the sea], so there was a storm—a great tempest, on the sea,
and the ship threatened [to break apart].

5 So frightened [were all of the sailors], [that they cried out]—[each man] [to his god],
and they cast out the cargo that was [in the ship] into the sea to lighten their load.
[But it was that Jonah] [had gone down] into the hold of the vessel, [and had lain down], [and was fast asleep].

6 [A man then] [approached him]: the captain of the sailors, who said to him, "[What are you doing] [fast asleep]?
[Get up] and call to your God. [Perhaps it will happen] [that He *will* give a thought]—[*ha Elohim*] [will think of us] and we will not die."

7[And they said], each man [to his neighbor], "[Come now], let us [cast lots], so that [we may know]
[on whose account] this evil—this calamity—[is upon us]." So they cast the lots, and there fell the lot on Jonah.

8 [And they said] to him, "[Explain this—pray], [you must tell us] [for what reason], because of whom is this evil upon us.
[What is your work?] From whence [do you come]? What is your country, and from what people are you?"

9 And he said to them, "A Hebrew [is what I am]. YHWH the God of the heavens is the one I do fear, who created the sea [and the dry land]."

10 And afraid were the men—indeed [they feared greatly], so they said to him, "What is this [that you have done]"?
[For they knew]—[the men were quite aware]—that from YHWH he [had been fleeing], since he had told this to them.

11 They said to him, "[What shall we do] with you, to calm down the sea over us? For the sea was raging and tempestuous.

1:12 And he gave [this response to them], "[Lift me up] and hurl me [into the sea], which will quiet the sea for you.
Because it is known to me that it is [on account of me] [that this tempest]—[this great storm] [that is happening], is upon you.
13 [And they rowed hard]—[the men made a great effort] [to make their way back] [to the dry land], [but they were not able],
because the sea kept growing tempestuous over them.
14 And they cried to YHWH, [and they said], "Please YHWH, pray [let us not perish], [for the life] (*nefesh*) of the man we have here.
Do not put upon us [innocent blood]. For you—YHWH: as you have pleased, [so have you done]."
15 [So they took up] Jonah, [and hurled him] into the sea, and this stopped the sea [from its raging].
16 [And seized with fear] [were the men, seeing this]; they feared greatly YHWH
[and they offered sacrifices] to YHWH, [and they made vows] of sacrifice.

2:1 And prepared YHWH a fish—[a great sea creature], [to swallow up] Jonah.
And it was that Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and for three nights.
2 And prayed Jonah to YHWH his God [from the innards] of the fish.
3 [This is what he said], "[I called out] [from the straits] [that I was in] to YHWH, [and He answered me].
[From deep in the belly] [of the netherworld] [I cried out], and You *heard* my voice.
4 [You cast me] into the abyss in the heart of the sea. The current [came around me].
All your breakers and rolling waves—over me they streamed."
5 And I said, "I am banished from before Your eyes, [and yet] again [will I look] on Your temple—[Your holy place].
6 I was surrounded by waters [up to my neck] (*nefesh*). The deep [came around me]. Seaweed was wrapped around my head.
7 [To the moorings] of the mountains [I went down]. [Deep in the earth], the bolts closed against me, forever.
[But you lifted me] [up from the pit]—[bringing up my life], YHWH my God.
8 [When there grew faint] [within me], my life-breath (*nefesh*), YHWH I remembered.
And [I reached You] [with my prayers], [They came to your temple]—[Your holy place].
9 [Those paying regard] [to idols of vanity]—the kindness due to them, [they do forsake].
10 [And as for me], with a voice of thanks*giving* [let me sacrifice to you]. [What *I* have vowed] let me fulfill, [For salvation] is from YHWH."
11 Then spoke YHWH to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah onto the dry land.

3:1 [There came the word] [of YHWH] to Jonah a second time, saying,
2 "[You must get up] and go to Nineveh, that [great city],
[and call out] [to it] the message—the words that I in fact will speak to you."
3 [So he got up]—[Jonah arose], and went to Nineveh, [as per the word] of YHWH.
[And this city Nineveh] [was a city] great [of *Elohim*]. [To walk across it] took three days.
4 [And so began] Jonah to enter the city, a walk that lasted one day.
[He called out] and he said, "[In another] forty days Nineveh [will be overthrown]."
5 [They believed these words]: the people of Nineveh [trusted *Elohim*].
[They called a fast] and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least.
6 [When there had reached] the word to the king of Nineveh,
[he got up] [from his throne] and took off his robe [from upon him],
[and covered himself] with sackcloth, and sat upon ashes.
7[And he had it proclaimed], and he announced in Nineveh:
"[By the authority] [of the king] and his nobles", he said,
"Both man and beast, cattle [as well as sheep], [may not taste] anything.
[They are not to graze]. And water—[they may not drink].
8 They must [be covered with sackcloth]—both man and beast.
Have them cry out to God [with all their might].
[And let them turn]—[each man] from his way that is evil, [and from the violence] that is in their hands.
9 Who knows [if God will turn]—[if there is forbearance] in *Elohim*—
[and if God should turn] from His fierce anger, so that we shall not perish."
10 And seen by God [were their actions]—[that they had turned] [from their way] that was evil,
so the mercy [of *ha Elohim*] [made Him turn from the evil] that He said to do to them, and He did not do it.

4:1 It was vexing to Jonah—his displeasure was great. Furious [*he* became].
2 He prayed to YHWH, [saying these words], "[I beseech Thee], YHWH: Is not this [what I said] [when I was still] [in my own country]?
Therefore did I hasten to flee to Tarshish. For [I do surely know] [that in fact] You [are a God gracious] and merciful,
one slow to anger [and full of kindness], and You relent [from doing harm].
3 So now YHWH, take pray, my soul *(nefesh)* from me, [because indeed], better *is* my death than my life."
4 And responded YHWH, "[Do you do well], having such anger in you?"
5 [And so went out] Jonah from the city, [and he sat down] to the east of the city.
[And he made] for himself there [a *sukkah*—a shelter]
and sat underneath it [in the shade], until the time [that he might see] [what would take place] in the city.
6 [And God provided]—[YHWH *Elohim*]—[a *qiqayon* plant or gourd], [and made it to come up] | over [the head of Jonah],
to be a shade [over his head], to relieve him [of his evil plight].
[He was happy]—[Jonah was glad]—[because of the *qiqayon*]. He reveled greatly.
7 Then prepared *Elohim* a worm at the arising of the dawn, on the morrow. It attacked the *qiqayon*, which withered.
8 [And it came to pass] | [at the rising] [of the morning sun], there appointed *Elohim* a wind from the east that was stifling* *Stone Edition Tanach
[so that beat down] [the rays of the sun] on the head of Jonah, [and he grew faint].
He asked of his soul [to die], [while saying this], "Better is my death than my life."
9 Then said *Elohim* to Jonah, "Do you do well having anger in you, [over the *qiqayon*]?
[And he replied], "Good and angry am I, [even unto death]."
10 But then [said YHWH], "You had pity over the *qiqayon*, [over this plant]: you labored not for it, and did not [make it grow],
which in one night did come up, and in one night it perished.
11 [And shall I] not take pity on Nineveh, that great city, of which [there are living in it] [many more than] twelve times ten thousand (120,000)
[human beings], who [do not know] [their right hand] [from their left], [end melody], [and also there are beasts] [in great numbers].